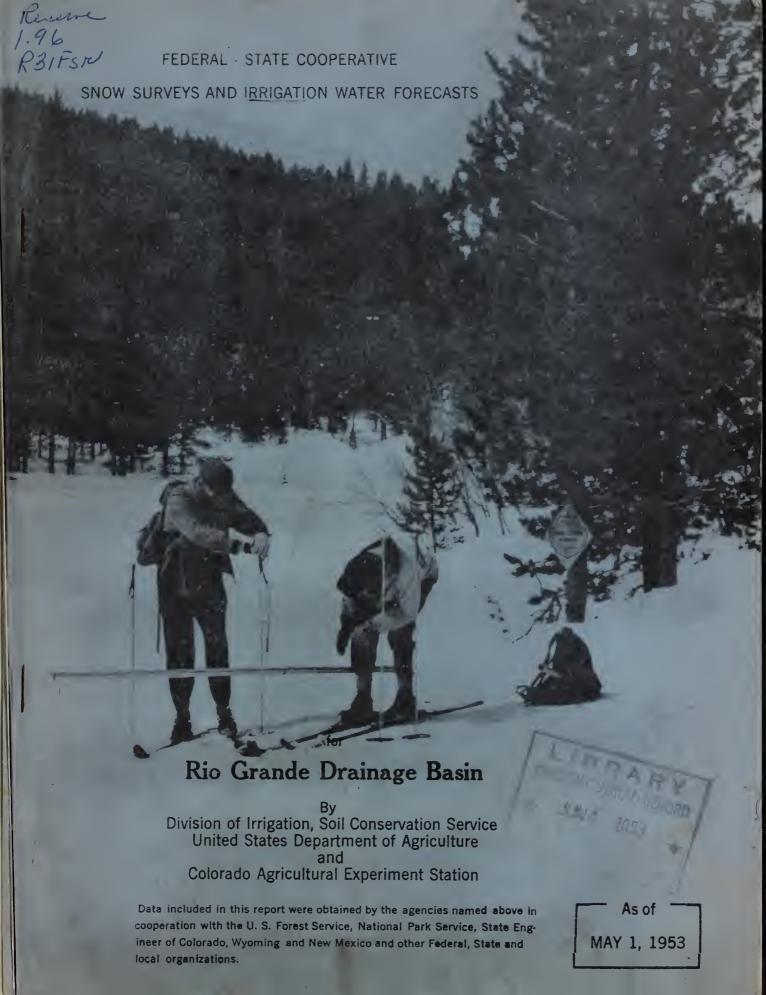
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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE

TO RECIPIENTS OF COOPERATIVE SNOW SURVEY AND WATER SUPPLY FORECAST REPORTS:

Forecasts by U. S. Weather Bureau of total annual streamflow October-September, inclusive, at more than 300 gaging stations are issued monthly January through May in the publication WATER SUPPLY FORECASTS FOR THE WESTERN UNITED STATES.

Weather Bureau forecasts of runoff presented in this bulletin are computed from procedures based on mathematical analysis of the relation between precipitation and runoff.

The Weather Bureau bulletins may be secured by writing to:

Hydrologist in Charge River Forecast Center U. S. Weather Bureau 712 Federal Office Building Kansas City 6, Missouri

FEDERAL-STATE COOPERATIVE SNOW SURVEYS AND IRRIGATION WATER SUPPLY FORECASTS

For

RIO GRANDE DRAINAGE BASIN

May 1, 1953

Report Prepared

bу

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General Series Paper No. 545 Colorado Agricultural Experiment Station

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WATER SUPPLY OUTLOOK RIO GRANDE DRAINAGE BASIN May 1, 1953

The water supply outlook for the Rio Grande and its tributaries is far much below average flow for the 1953 season, Practically all snow measurements as of May 1 are at or near a minimum of record since snow surveys were started in 1936. Because of relatively dry soils beneath the snow in high mountain areas, the expected runoff of the Rio Grande and its tributaries is expected to be also at or near the minimum of record. Summer flow of the Rio Grande will most probably be less than 50 percent of normal, with flow into the Middle Rio Grande Valley about 25 percent and possibly less than 10 percent of normal summer flow into Elephant Butte Reservoir. Annual flow will be higher in percent of normal as winter flow will exceed summer flow in the lower reaches of the stream. A season similar to 1951 is to be expected.

The snow accumulation on the Rio Grande drainage into San Luis Valley has been light since February 1 and forecasts of stream flow have been substantially reduced since that date. Snow has melted at medium and lower mountain elevations. Storage in irrigation reservoirs in San Luis Valley is two to three times that stored on May 1, 1952 and slightly above average. The water supply outlook is definitely in contrast to a year ago and similar to the 1951 season. Soil moisture conditions in valley irrigated districts are fair to good.

In northern New Mexico the snow has melted except for protected areas at high elevations. Mountain soils are wet on the surface but no increase in stream flow has been noted. Soil moisture conditions are reported as fair east of the river near Taos but dry in irrigated areas along the Rio Grande. El Vado reservoir has 16,600 acre-feet in storage. Flow of the Rio Grande at Otowi Bridge for the April-September 1953 period is forecast at 225,000 acre-feet or 25 percent of normal.

Storage in Elephant Butte and Caballo Reservoirs now totals 368,000 acrefeet. This is near four times that stored a year ago but still critically low in view of the present water supply outlook. Storage and expected inflow is a little over one-half of the usual irrigation water demand in southern New Mexico and west Texas.

Snow cover on the Pecos watershed is below normal. The summer runoff of the Pecos at Pecos, New Mexico, is expected to be 50 percent of normal.

Storage in Conchas reservoir is well below average and a year ago. Soil moisture conditions on the Tucumcari project are fair.

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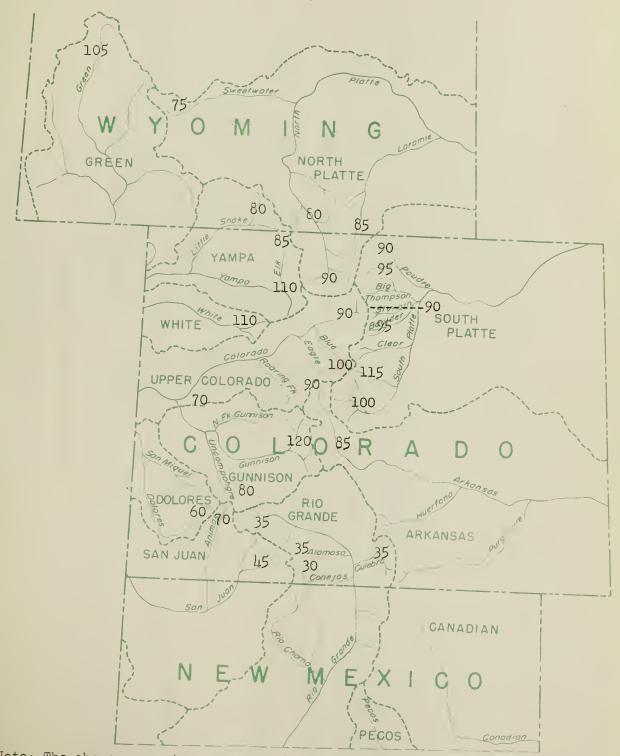
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WATER CONTENT OF SNOW ON THE WATERSHEDS OF PLATTE, ARKANSAS, UPPER COLORADO AND RIO GRANDE BASINS BASED ON SNOW SURVEYS MADE APPROXIMATELY FIRST DAY OF MONTH

In Percent of Normal May 1, 1953



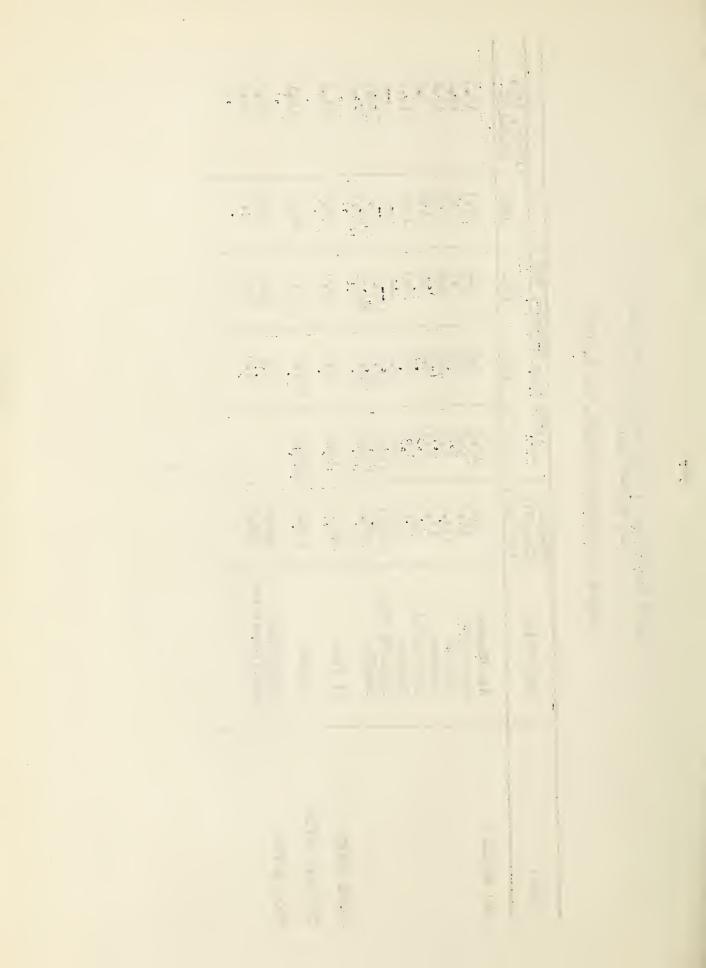
Note: The above percentages represent remaining snow cover in percent of normal as of May 1 and do not necessarily indicate expected runoff for the 1953 snow melt season.



SNOW SURVEYS AND IRRIGATION WATER FORECASTS RIO GRANDE BASIN

STATUS OF RESERVOIR STORAGE, May 1, 1953

omp.		USABLE	1,000	1,000 A.F. Storage, May	age, May 1		
SIKEAM	RESERVOIR	CAPACITY 1000 A.F.	1953	1952	1951	1950	10 yr Avgo
tree of the							
KIO CHANDE	Rio Grande	45.0	17.6	2,06	5,1	19.7	13.1
	Santa Maria	145.0	6°6	2,8	2.9	22.5	1001
	Sanchez	103.0	2.9	7.8	3,4	9.6	12.2
	Terrace	17.7	6,3	3.4	89	7"1	30
	Continental	26.7	6,3	6.9	20	19.0	11,1
	Platoro	0°09	0.0	ω (C)	1	. 1	
	Elephant Butte	2273.7	233.6	53.9	196.8	615,2	713.5
	Caballo	356.0	133.9	56.5	144,1	193.7	172.5
CHAMA RIVER	El Vado	226.0	16,6	30°0	30,0	0°99	91.04
CANADIAN RIVER	Conchas	0°009	146.4	201,2	268,3	288,8	318.1
PECOS RIVER	Alamogordo	148,0		7.1	75.0	75,5	۲.
	McMillan-Avalon	45.0		200	0,0	, m	200



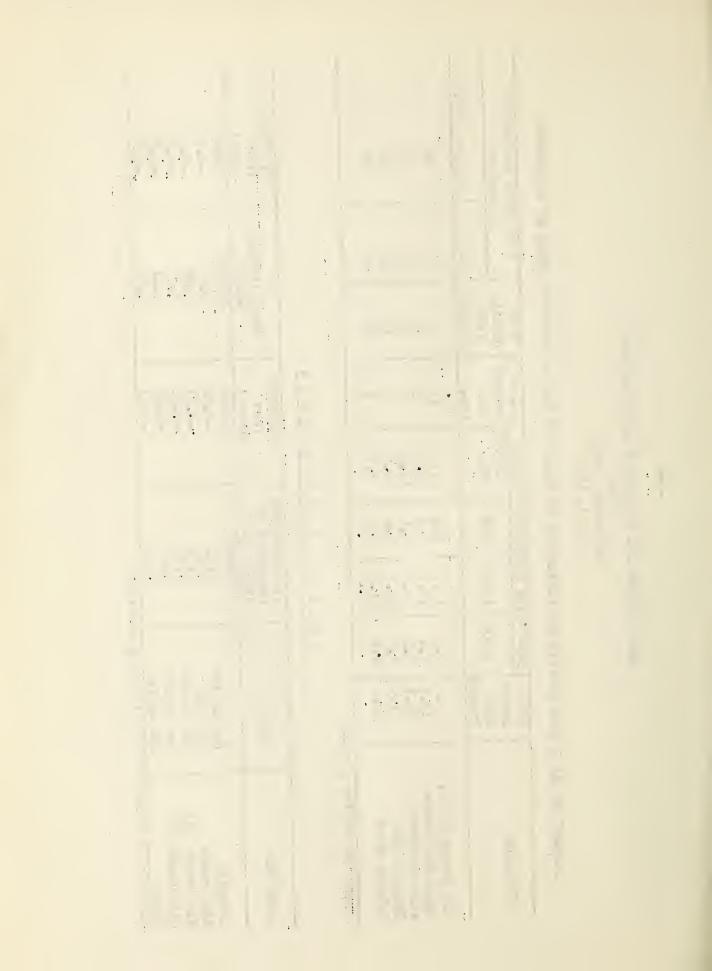
SNOW SURVEYS AND IRRIGATION WATER FORECASTS for RIO GRANDE BASIN May 1, 1953

SUMMARY OF MAY 1 SNOW SURVEYS AND COMPARISON OF DATA WITH THAT OF PREVIOUS YEARS BY WATERSHEDS

	Snow	Snow Wa	ter Con	tent in	Water Content in Inches No. of	No. of	Snow	1953 Wat	1953 Water Content in
WATFRSHEDS		3			15 yr.	courses	Density	perc	percent of
	1953 Inches	1953	1952	1951	Avg.	in Avg.	1953 Percent	1952	15 yr. Avg.*
Rio Grande (Colo.)	9.2	2.8	13,7	η"η	6.2	18	30	20	30
Upper Rio Grande	13.2	3.4	17.7	7.0	10.4	m	56	19	33
Alamosa River	26.1	8.2	19.9	8.1	12,3	. ~	표	17	67
Conejos River	7.5	3.0	19.2	5.4	10.6	ın	07	16	28
Culebra River	16.0	3.2	21.2	4.5	7.6		50	15	33
*Some for charter newinds	200								

DATA PRECIPITATION

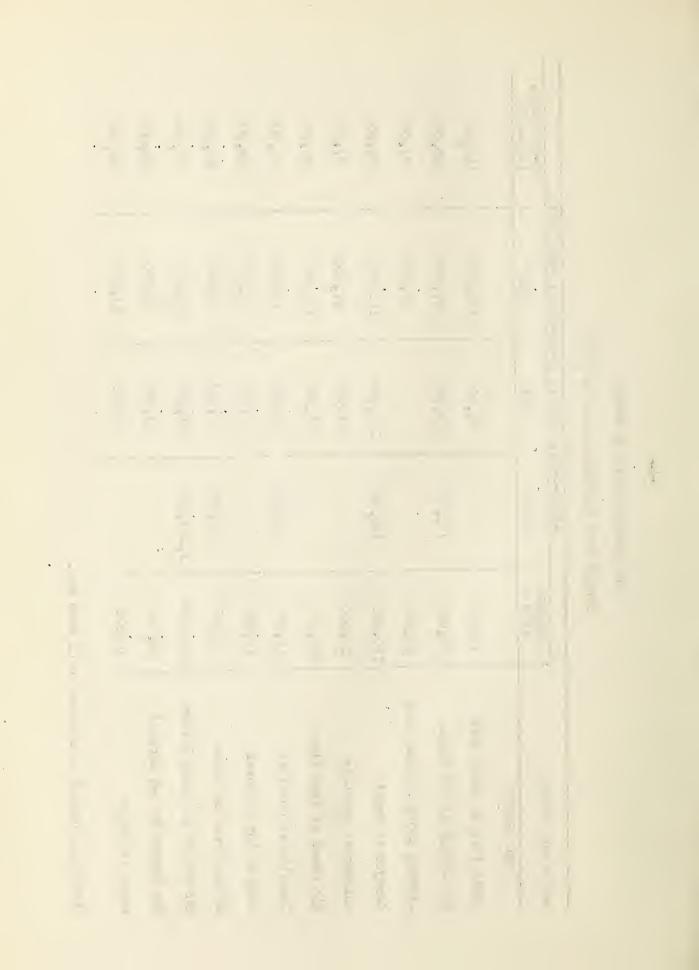
		Precipitation	Departure		Departure
WATERSHED	STATE	October 1 to	from	Precipitation	from
		April 30	normal	April	normal
		Inches	Inches	Inches	Inches
Canadian	New Mexico	2.13	-3.34	0.25	1.03
Rio Grande	Colorado	2.71	1,53	0.72	90.0
Rio Grande (N)	New Mexico	2,00	-3.22	 ∞ √	10,01
Rio Grande (S)	New Mexico	2,28	-1.01	0,41	10°04
Pecos	New Mexico	2.40	-2.83	0.34	-0.51
*Average of Selected High Elevation	S	tations			



RIO GRANDE DRAINAGE BASINS STREAM FLOW FORECASTS, May 1, 1953

		April-Sept	, Incl., Stre	April-Sept., Incl., Streamflow, Acre Feet	
BASIN AND STREAM	Forecast 1953	1952	1951	1950	10-year avg. 1941-1950
RIO GRANDE					
South Fork at South Fork	75,000		000,419	100,000	146,000
Rio Grande at Del Norte	300,000	751,000	252,000	397,000	610,000
Alamosa above Terrace Res.	145,000			26,000	77,000
Conejos at Mogote	120,000	356,000	107,000	148,000	225,000
Culebra at San Luis	15,000		11,000	19,000	37,000
Rio Chama at Park View	100,000		86,000	154,000	232,000
Costilla at Costilla	18,000	36,000	15,000	15,000	36,000
Taos at Los Cordovas	12,000		5,500	6,200	43,000
Embudo Creek at Dixon	20,000	63,000	000,9	3,000	000 609
Rio Grande at Otowi Bridge	225,000%	1,167,400	201,000	267,000	900,000
Rio Grande at San Marcial	70,000		23,000	55,000	706,000
Pecos at Pecos	35,000		25,000	13,000	000,499

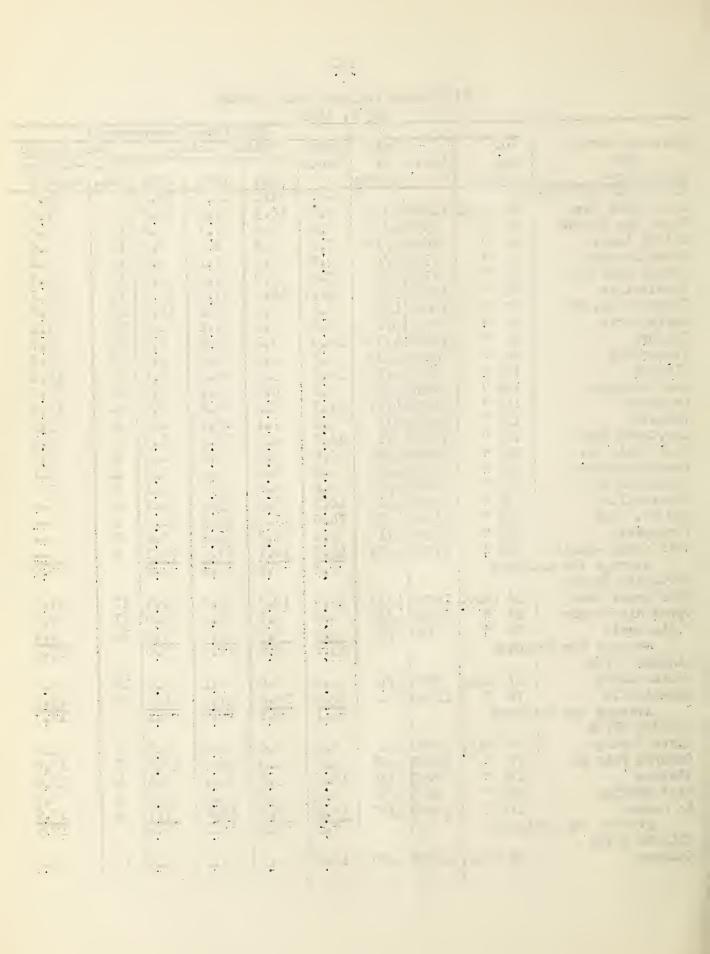
*Including change in storage in El Vado Res.



RIO GRANDE DRAINAGE SNOW SURVEYS

May 1, 1953

			May 1	, 1953					
Desire D	-					w Cover			
Drainage Basin.	No.	777	Date	Snow	Wate	er Conte	ent		st Record
and	and	Elev.	of	Depth				1	w.later
Snow Course	State		Survey		1955	1952	1951	Rec.	
RIO GRANDE IN COLOR				In.	In.	In.	In.		In.
Wolf Creek Pass	26 Colo.	10000	4/30	39.5	10.3	49.2	20.9	17	27.9
Upper Rio Grande	27 11	9350	4/30	0.0	0.0	2.7	0.0	17	2.2
Silver Lakes	47 "	9600	4/30	0.0	0.0	2.1	0.0	16	1.0
River Springs	49 11	9300		0.0	0.0	2.1	0.0	16	1.0
LaVeta Pass #2	74 "	9300		0.0	0.0	4.5	1.0	17	3.7
Summitville	76 "	11500		52.3	16.4	37.7	16.2	13	23.7
Cumbres Pass #2	77 "	10000		9,2	4.0	19.5	10.5	17	17.8
Santa Maria	80 "	9700		0.0	0.0	1.1	0.0	14	1.1
Culebra	82 "	10000		16.0	3.2	21.2	4.5	13	9.7
Ft.Garland	84 "		4/30	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	13	0.5
Platoro	108 "	9950		10.2	3.8	30.5	8.6	4	15.6
West Conejos	100 "		4/28	0.0					0.9
La Manga	110 "				0.0	3.2	0.0	4	
	122 "	10100		17.9	7.2	40.8	7.7	1	17.9
Pyramid	1	10300		4.4	1.1	10.6	1.9	4	5.5
Spr.Creek Pass	460	10900		16.8	4.3	13.9	3.9	4	7.4
Pool Table Mt.	124 "	10000		0.0	0.0	3.0	1.4	4	2.5
Lake Humphreys	125 "	9300		0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	4	0.2
Cochetopa Pass	126 "	10000		0.0	0.0	4.5	3.1	4	2.9
Howardville	151 "	9800		10.2	3.6	15.2	4.9	2	agen date
Red Mt. Pass	153 "	11000		74.0	26.5	45.8	28.8	2	
Porcupine	154 "	10400		9.9	2.7	14.1	3.8	2	
Wolf Creek Summit	155 "	11000	4/30	65.5	19.1	51.7	22.1	2	
Average for dra	ainage			9.2	2.8	13.7	4.4		7.9
UPPER RIO GRANDE									
Wolf Creek Pass	26 Colo.			39.5	10.3	49.2	20.9	17	27.9
Upper Rio Grande	27 "	9350	4/30	0.0	0.0	2.7	0.0	17	2.2
Cinta Maria	80 "	9700	5/1	0.0	0.0	1.1	0.0	14	1.1
Average for dra	ainage			13.2	3.4	17.7	7.0		10.4
ALAMOSA RIVER									
Silver Lakes	47 Colo.	9600	5/1	0.0	0.0	2.1	0.0	16	1.0
Summitville	76 "	11500			16.4		16.2	13	23.7
Average for dra			7, 4	52.3 26.1	8.2	37.7 19.9	8.1		12.3
CONEJOS RIVER			()			_,,,			
River Springs	49 Colo.	9300	5/1	0.0	0.0	2.2	0.0	16	1.0
Cumbres Pass #2	77 "	10000		9.2	4.0	19.5	10.5	17	17.8
Platoro	108 "	9950		10.2	3.8	30.5	8,6	4	15.6
West Conejos	100 "	9450		0.0	0.0	3.2	0.0	4	0.9
La Manga	110 "	10100		17.9	7.2	10.8	7.7	1	17.9
_		10100	4/41	7.5	3.0	19.2	5.4	7	10.6
Average for dr CULEBRA RIVER	arnage			1.0	ا ٥٥ ر	17.6	7.4		10.0
	82 ^C olo.	10000	1./20	76.0	2 2	21.2	4.5	13	9.7
Culebra	02 0010	10000	4/30	16.0	3.2	21.6	4.0	1)	7•1
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LIST AND LOCATION OF SNOW COURSES

Plutte, Arkansas, Colorado and Rio Grande Dreinages

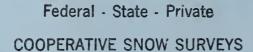
No	•	Name Cheyenne	Seo.	Twp.	Rge.	Elev.	No	•	Name Upper Colorado	Sec.	Twp.	Rge.	Elev.
1	SD	Upper Spearfish	21	3N	1E	6500	12	С	Phantom Valley	7	5N	75W	9300
							16	C	Berthoud Pass	35	2\$	75W	9700
		North Platte					37	C	M. F. Camp Ground	16	38	77W	9000
7	C	Park View	24	5N	78W	9200	44	C	Fiddler Gulch	1	8\$	80M	11000
8	C	Columbine	21	5N	82W	9300	59	C	Lulu	25	6N	76W	10200
156	C	Northgate	7	11N	79W	8500	64	C	N. Inlet Grand Lake	26	4N	75W	9000
7 8	W	Bottle Creek	24 27	14N	85W	8200	65	C	Lake Irene	8 3 4	5N 1S	75W 75W	10600 9900
9	W	Webber Spring Old Battle	29	14N 14N	85W/ 85W/	9000	69 70	C	Arrow Lapland	16	2S	7611	9500
37	W	North French Creek	27	16N	80W	10200	79	C	Fremont Pass	2	88	76W	11400
38	W	North Barrett Creek	30	16N	8UW	9400	91	c	Lynx Pass	27	211	88N	8100
39	W	Ryan Park	34	16N	81W	8400	96	C	Shrine Pass	15	6S	79W	10500
67	W	Spring Creek	32	15N	8 5W	9000	97	C	Grizzly Peak	2	5S	76W	11250
68	N	Albany	18	14N	78W	9400	102	C	Glen-Mar Ranch	31	2\$	777	8850
71	W	Pearl	18	12N	82W	8900	106	C	Nonarch Lake	30	2.\(\bar{\pi}	747	85.0
							112	С	Granb,	11	2N	77N	8700
		Laremie	_				127	С	Grand Lake	36	4N	75N	8500
88	S	Roach	5	101	77W	9800	138	С	Berthoud Summit	10	2S	75N	11300
111	C	McIntyre	35	10N	76W	9100	139	C	Frazer View	34 2	2\$	75N 82N	10600 8900
11	W.	Brooklyn Lake Foxpark	11 21	16N 13N	78W 78W	10200 9200	143 146	C	Gore Pass Frisoo	18	1N 6S	78W	3330
35	W	Liboy Lodge	29	16N	78W	8700	147	C	Snake River	9	5S	76N	570J
وه	W	Hairpin Turn	24	161	79W	9500	158	C	Summit Ranch	8	4S	78 A	10000
	-	1021 0211 10111		2011	, , , ,	5000	163	C	Vail Pass	28	55	79N	10000
		Sweetwater					167	C	Kokomo	23	78	79N	10600
29	34	Grannier 'acows	19	3JN	100W	9000	168	C	rando	10	75	8JW	ಕರಿಯ
47	4	South Pass	13	30N	101%	9000							
57	W	Larson Creek	12	3UN	103W	9000			doaring Fork				
							33	C	Ind. Pass Tunnel	30	118	82N	10750
		Laramie Peaks Distr					34	С	North Lost Trail	20	115	87N	9200
38	W	La Bonte	11	27N	74N	8450	45	С	Nast	1	ьS	83:1	8700
70	W	Boxelder	31	30N	75W	9000	100	C	Ivanhoe	12	98	82W	10400
		Courtin Litation					144	С	Ruby	1	125	83W	11500
1	С	South Flatte Cameron Pass	2	6N	76W	10300			Yampa				
2	C	Chambers Lake	6	7N	75W	9000	6	С	Dry Lake	26	7N	84W	8300
3	c	Big South	33	8N	75W	8600	ý	c	Elk River	21	5N	82W	9500
5	C	East Portal	2	28	747	9400	140	Ċ	Routt Line	13	511	85N	5730
14	Č	Hoosier Pass	13	88	78W	11400	141	C	Rubbit Ears	30	5N	83N	9550
15	C	Fairplay	33	98	7'/W	10000	142	С	Yampa View	21	5N	84W	8500
41	C	Wild Basin	24	3N	74W	10000							
50	C	Deadman Hill	26	10N	75W	10200			White				
60	C	University Camp	26	1N	73W	10300	35	С	Burro Mountain	15	2\$	91W	9000
61	С	Loveland Pass	27	48	76W	10600	36	С	Rio Blanco	28	1N	88 M	8500
68	С	Hour Glass Lake	18	7N	73W	9500			Distance Greek				
83	C	Jefferson Creek	14	7S	76W	10100	5ô	С	Plateau Creek Mesa Lakes	35	118	96W	10000
95 115	C	Hidden Valley	23 19	5N 5N	75W 75W	9550 9050	85	C	Trickle Divide	23	113	94W	10000
116	C	Deer Ridge Copeland Lake	21	3N	7 SW	8600	00		(TICKIE DIVIGE	20	110	3211	10000
117	Ċ	Empire	21	38	75W	9650			Gunnison River				
118	C	Geneva Park	18	6S	74W	9750	18	С	Crested Butte	22	13\$	86N	9000
120	Ċ	Antero	1	138	7'/W	9200	46	C	Park Cone	19	148	82W	9700
128	С	Red Feather	26	lon	74W	9000	53	C	Alexander Lake	2	12S	25W	10000
133	Ç	Moffatt	2	25	74W	9400	55	C	Snowshoe Mesa	14	138	89₩	7500
154	C	Ward	1	1N	75W	9500	58	C	Ironton Fark	29	43N	7W	9800
137		Berthoud Falls	16	3S	75W	10500	87	C	Park Reservoir	34	115	94W	9500
148		Longs Peak	32	4N	75W	10500	89		Porphyry Creek	19	49N	6E	10800
156		Lost Lake	32	8N	75W	9300	101		Kannah Creek	5	12S	95W	10700 10300
34	•	Pole Mountain	35	15N	72W	8700	104 132		Lake City McClure Pass	13 1	45N 11S	4W 89W	9500
		Arkansas River					155		Red Mountain	13	42N	8W	11000
19	С	Tennessee Pass	21	88	80W	10200	100		War warrantii			3,,	
21		Twin Lakes Tunnel	22	118	82W	10500			San Juan				
72		Wniskey Creek		37.2N	105W	10300	29	C	Upper San Juan	10	37N	1E	10000
74		La Veta Pass	22	28\$	70W	9300	30		Silverton	10	41N	7₩	9400
78	C	Four Mile Park	23	118	81W	9700	31		Casoade	12	39N	₽₩	8850
81	C	Blue Lakes	30	318	69W	10000	155	C	La Plsta	4	36N	11W	9700
92		Monarch Pass	16	49N	6E	10500	149		Spud Mountain	32	40N	8W	10700
119		Saint Elmo	31	158	80W	10600	150		Molss Lake	7	4UN	7W	10500
121		Timberline	8	98	81W	11100	151		Howardville	15	41N	7W	9800
165		Cooper Hill	2	88	80W	10600	162	C	Mineral Creek	36	42N	8W	10300
166	C	East Fork	9	88	79W	10700							

-2-LIST AND LOCATION OF SNOW COURSES (CONTINUED)

No.	Name	Seo.	Twp.	Rge.	Elev.	No.	Name	Seo.	Twp	Rge.	Elev.
	Dolores						Arizona (Williams)			
23 C	Rioo	11	39N	11W	8700	7 A	Iron Springs	- 22	14N	3W	6000
24 C	Telluride	6	42N	8W	8600	15 A	Willow Ranch	16	21N	11W	5000
25 C	Lizzard Head	24	41N	10W	10300						
114 C	Trout Lake	8	41N	9W	9700		Arizona (Lower Co	lorado)		
						9 A	Chalendar	27	_ 22N	3E	7100
	Green					10 A	Grand Canyon	21	30N	4E	7500
23 W	Dutoh Joe	33	31N	104W	8700	11 A	Bright Angel	34	33N	4E	8400
24 W	Mulligan Park	17	35N	108W	8900		_				
25 W	Kendall R. S.	23	38N	110W	7900		Rio Grande				
26 W	Loomis Park	14	37W	111W	8500	26 C	Wolf Creek	4	37N	2E	10000
27 W	Snyder Basin	15	29N	114W	8040	27 C	Upper Rio Grande	13	40N	4W	9350
28 W	Piney La Barge	19	29N	114W	8820	47 C	Silver Lakes	15	36N	5E	9600
						49 C	River Springs	25	33N	6E	9300
	Arizona (Gila)					76 C	Summitville	30	37N	4E	11500
11 NM	Frisoo Divide	21	6S	20W	8000	77 C	Cumbres Pass	17	32N	5E	10000
14 NM	State Line	5	6S	21W	8000	80 C	Santa Maria	8	41N	2W	9700
22 NM	Taylor Creek	20	108	10W	7850	82 C	Culebra		37.2N	105.2W	10000
23 NM	Inman	6	118	10W	7800	84 C	Fort Garland	13	29N	72W	8200
1 A	Nutrioso	23	6N	30E	8500	108 C	Platoro	22	36N	4W	9950
2 A	Beaver Head	13	4N	30E	8000	109 C	West Conejos	25	35N	4E	9450
3 A	Coronado Trail	26	5N	30E	8000	110 C	La · Manga	11	33N	5E	10000
29 A	Rose Canyon	15	12S	16E	7300	122 C	Pyramid	26	41N	5W	10300
30 A	Bear Wallow	6	12S	16E	8100	123 C	Spring Creek Pass	2	42N	3W	10900
						124 C	Pool Table Mt.	19	41N	2E	10000
	Arizona (Salt)					125 C	Lake Humphrey	32	40N	1E	9300
4 A	McNary	14	8N	23E	7200	126 C	Cochetopa Pass	12	45N	3E	10000
5 A	Forest Dale	2	9N	21E	6000	154 C	Porcupine	2	41N	3W	10400
6 A	Milk Ranoh	28	8N	23E	7000	155 C	Wolf Creek Summit	6	37N	2E	11000
20 A	Pacheta				7800						
21 A	Fort Apache	18	7N	27E	9000	1 NM	Red River	29	28N	15E	9500
22 A	Baldy	28	7N	27E	9000	2 NM	Taos Canyon	10	25N	15E	9000
23 A	Maverick Fork	13	6N	27E	9050	4 NM	Aspen Grove	12	18N	10E	9100
31 A	Workman Creek	33	6N	14E	5860	9 NM	Hematite Park	8	28N	15E	9 500
						12 NM	Tres Ritos	23	22N	13E	9000
	Arizona (Little C					15 NM	Payrole	16	28N	7E	9700
12 A	Fort Valley	22	22N	6E	7350	17 NM	Chama Divide			106.7W	7750
13 A	Mormon Lake	13	18N	8E	7350	18 NM	Chamita			106.7W	8500
19 A	Mormon Mountain	14	18N	8E	7500	19 NM	Cordova	22	22N	13E	10100
						20 NM	Panohuela	27	19N	12E	8300
	Arizona (Verde)					21 NM	Big Tesuque	17	18N	11E	10000
8 A	Camp Wood	3	16N	6₩	5700	24 NM	Elk Cabin	8	18N	112	8250
16 A	Antelope Park	29	19N	8E	7300	26 NM	Rio En Medio	8	18N	11E	10400
17 A	Casner Park	19	18N	8E	6930	28 NM	Quemazon	34	SON	5E	9300
18 A	Munds Park	7	18N	7E	6500	29 NM	Ba teman	5	26N	6E	9300
						31 NM	Fenton Hill	18	19N	3W	8900

SD - South Dakota; C - Colorado; W - Wyoming; A - Arizona; NM - New Mexico





Furnishes the basic data necessary for forecasting water supply for irrigation, domestic and municipal water supply, hydro-electric power generation, navigation, mining and industry

"WATER IS THE WEST'S GREATEST RESOURCE"